Statement-II

Quantity of rice and wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India and State agencies for the central pool during 1998-99 *to* 2001-02

(Qty. in '000 tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat
1998-99	11867	12652
1999-2000	17309	14144
2000-2001	19586	16357
2001-2002	21277	20630
1.4.2002 to 10.12.2002	8778	19024

Foodgrain stocks with FCI

2267. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN·
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the stocks of rice and wheat with the FCI as on March 31, 1999, 2000, 2001 and the 31st October, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): The stock of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 31st March, 1999, 2000, 2001 and on 31st October, 2002 was as under:—

(figures in lakh tonnes)

As on	Rice	Wheat	Total
31-3-1999	121.83	96.57	218.40
31-3-2000	157.19	131.87	289.06
31-3-2001	231.91	215.04	446.95
31-10-2002	205.09	330.59	535.68

Export of bad quality rice

2268. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains sold to the Indian businessmen during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and during the six months from April 1, 2002;

(b) the rates at which these foodgrains were sold;

(c) whether Government have noticed that these businessmen had exported bad quality rice and wheat thus creating a bad opinion about our foodgrains in the international markets;

(d) whether there are any instances when the foreign countries had rejected the foodgrains on the ground that these were of bad quality; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The quantity of wheat and rice released from the Central Pool to the Public Sector Undertakings, State Agencies and private parties for export purposes during the following years are as under:—

(Fig. in lakh MTs)
(Provisional)

Year	Wheat	Rice
1999-2000	Nil	Nil
2000-2001	18.69	Nil
2001-2002	39.52	19.86
2002-2003 (upto Sept. 02)	33.83	37.39

(b) Foodgrains are being offered to the exporters at the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) Price of the FCI. However, post delivery and other related expenses, which are W.T.O. compatible, are allowed.

(c) to (e) No country has rejected Indian foodgrains exported from the Central Pool on account of sub-standard quality. However, four shipments of wheat sent by three private parties were rejected by the Grain Board of Iraq for containing inorganic matter, although those conformed to the Internationally accepted CODEX Standards. The

quantity involved was 74,018 MTs and it was offered to the exporters @ Rs. 4340/- per MT.

CBI raid on Central Warehouse, Khandwa

2269. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has raided the warehouse of the Central Warehouse, Khandwa on the 13th August, 2002 and exposed a large scale bungling there;

(b) what action has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) After conducting a surprise check at Central Warehouse, Khandwa from 9th August, 2002 to 12th August, 2002, the CBI registered a Preliminary Enquiry (PE). Action in the matter would be taken after receipt of the Investigation Report from the CBI.

Representation of claimants before Consumer Courts

2270. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ruled that only lawyers can represent claimants in a Consumer Court;

(b) whether the consumer activists say that allowing only lawyers to plead consumer dispute cases would complicate matters and would defeat the very purpose of the Consumer Protection Act;

(c) whether under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, a consumer in distress is not bound to hire a lawyer to represent him before the Consumer Courts; and

(d) whether Mumbai High Court has laid down that a claimant can be represented in Consumer Courts through an authorised representative not necessarily a lawyer?